Equal Rights

VOL. XX, No. 20
FIVE CENTS

SATURDAY
JUNE 16, 1934

JUN 15 1934
PERIODICAL DIVISION

The Eastern Regional Conference

They came, saw and succumbed to the charm of the seaside. After their two-day sessions at Atlantic City, members of the Woman's Party from Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York gathered on the deck of the Madison Hotel, refreshed in mind, body and spirit, and more determined than ever to continue their battle against discrimination and injustice on every front. The Conference meets again in October in Richmond, Virginia. Arabel W. Clark of Philadelphia is the Conference Chairman.

Equal Rights

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of the
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Published Weekly
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Baltimore, Md.
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Entered as second-class matter at Postoffice, Baltimore, Md., under Act March 3, 1879.

Subscription, $2.00 a Year
Foreign Subscription, $2.50

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Annual Dues	$10.00
Associate Members	$1.00
Subscribing Members	$3.00
Founders	$100.00
Life Members	$1,000.00
Endowers	$5,000.00
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OBJECT OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

The object of this organization shall be to secure for women complete equality with men under the law and in all human relationships.

THE LUCRETIA MOTT AMENDMENT

"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

[Senate Joint Resolution Number 1]
[House Joint Resolution Number 1]

Introduced in the Senate March 10, 1933, by SENATOR JOHN G. TOWNSEND, Delaware.

Introduced in the House March 9, 1933, by REPRESENTATIVE LOUIS LUDLOW, Indiana.

Richmond Next!

ONE measure of the success of an undertaking is the promptness with which the participators attempt to repeat it. In the case of the Atlantic City Conference, success was virtually instantaneous, for the first session had hardly been called to order when the invitation to meet next fall in Richmond was extended, and no sooner extended than accepted.

Beyond question, regional conferences are a most excellent way to promote organization. Members of State Branches organized under what has been re-named the Eastern Regional Conference Committee probably in many cases would not be able to afford either time or expense involved in attending a gathering say in Seattle, Washington, or in Denver, Colorado; whereas a trip to Atlantic City or Richmond is a quite reasonable possibility.

Conferences have this great advantage. They bring an organization and a cause to the attention of people who have never heard of them. Many in Atlantic City who had heard of Doris Stevens and the Nationality Treaty knew nothing of the National Woman's Party and her connection with it. The conference not only dramatized her triumph but, through her as a headliner, so to speak, made clear the whole program of the Woman's Party, and its efforts to liberate American women from the tyranny of unfair laws and customs.

The newspaper publicity alone was worth many times the effort and expense involved in getting up the Conference. The local papers gave most generously of their space, and stories were also carried in the big dailies of Philadelphia, New York and Baltimore.

"Richmond next!" is now the slogan. Maud H. Hudson, Virginia State Chairman, and Elsie Graff made a valiant showing last winter in trying to get jury service for the women of Virginia. Our problems are their problems, and vice versa. The growth of the Party and the ultimate success of the Equal Rights program depends on our conferring together and attracting others to our cause, steadily pushing out our frontiers from State to regional to national boundaries until finally they encompass the world.

The Handwriting on the Wall

NOTHING that has recently happened shows our need for a larger organization and membership more plainly than the signing, May 30, by seven States of an agreement to establish minimum wage standards for women and minors within their borders.

The compact, entered into at Concord, New Hampshire, and signed by five New England States and Pennsylvania and New York, will not become law until ratified by their Legislatures. But the mere fact that executives of seven States are willing to negotiate such an agreement, placing the contractual rights of women on a par with those of children, shows that the fear of the spread of Hitlerism in this country is not as chimerical as it may seem.

It is not sufficient that our degradation consists in our not being recognized as persons or as being entitled to the equal protection of the law. It is to laugh—rather to weep—that a girl baby in the process of growing up takes on a different status than her brothers in contemplation of law. Mothers may bring forth sons at the risk of their own lives, but when the sons reach maturity they can look down from a superior level upon the mothers who bore them.

Now, in addition to the common law discriminations, seven States are about to fasten statutory shackles upon women to cripple their bargaining power. Men may place their own price upon their labor, but, if this compact is ratified, employers will have to pay women specified wages, or else discharge them. Thousands of skilled, experienced women, women with dependents, women who must support themselves, will be thrown into the ranks of the unemployed.

The National Woman's Party is not opposed to minimum wage laws, provided that they apply to men and women. Men as well as women need to be protected from the greed of industrial exploitation. The public also needs to be protected. As we have said a million times, efficiency and not sex should be the basis on which jobs are handed out.

We must fight the ratification of this inhuman compact and in doing so we must arouse all women to the realization of the sinister forces that are at work to take away even those rights which they have. Women in Germany have been submerged because they were not organized. The womanhood of America will suffer the same fate unless it moves concertedly and with massed strength to establish Equal Rights between the sexes.

Atlantic City Conference a Brilliant Success

BEYOND the expectations of even its most enthusiastic promoters, last week's Regional Conference of the Party at the Madison Hotel in Atlantic City was one of the most notable events of the kind ever held under Woman's Party auspices.

The weather, the ocean, the hotel management ,the newspapers, the radio, and the people of Atlantic City all conspired to make those who attended want to return to the resort again and often. The ground-work has already been laid for the formation of an Atlantic City Branch with whose coöperation it is hoped to make future conferences at the New Jersey resort even more successful.

THE Conference got off to a flying start Saturday afternoon with Arabel W. Clark of Philadelphia, the Conference Chairman, in the chair. Greetings to the members present were extended by Ada Taylor, president of the Business and Professional Women's Club of Atlantic City, who expressed, in behalf of the women of the resort generally and of her own organization in particular, her gratification that the Regional Committee had chosen Atlantic City for its rendezvous and said she hoped the visit would recur annually. Miss Taylor has the distinction of being a member of the Atlantic City Chamber of Commerce.

There ensued a short business meeting at which Rosalie Murtagh of Philadelphia, Secretary of the Conference Committee, read the minutes of the last Conference, held in January in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and Anne Townsend presented her report as Conference Treasurer, stating that after all Conference expenses had been accounted for, there was a balance in the Treasury of $28.25.

The first action taken by the Conference was the adoption of a motion, proposed by Amy Kessler, publicity expert of Philadelphia, to accept the invitation of the Virginia Branch of the Party, extended by Elsie Graff of Richmond, to hold the next Convention in Richmond in October. Miss Clark then turned the meeting over to Edith Houghton Hooker, Vice-Chairman of the Party for Maryland and Editor of EQUAL RIGHTS, declaring there was "only one Edith Houghton Hooker," a statement which Mrs. Hooker laughingly set aside with the explanation that she had a daughter by the same name who, except for college entrance board examinations, would have been in Atlantic City, and who would certainly be on hand when the next Conference met in Richmond.

Mrs. Hooker launched immediately a discussion of the necessity for a re-organization of the Party along more democratic lines.

"The basis of the Equal Rights movement is a numerical matter—we must increase our membership if we are to realize our objective," she said. "We must not only change our laws but the cerebration back of them by re-making the estimate in which women hold themselves. To set women free, we must have each one strike a blow for her own freedom. We need not only a membership of 100,000, but to enroll every woman we can reach.

"As a matter of actual numbers, we have a smaller organization now than we had during the suffrage fight, and the reason is that we need a much more clean-cut form for our organization set-up." Indicating the ocean whose white-capped breakers could be plainly seen through the wide, deep windows of the solarium, Mrs. Hooker remarked that there were many fish in the ocean, jelly fish, that had no backbone at all. An organization, however, that wanted to hold its members needed more than anything else a strong backbone in the shape of proper by-laws.

"We want the woman who is a member, always to remain a member," Mrs. Hooker affirmed.

To Gail Laughlin, distinguished lawyer and member of the Maine Legislature, is attributed, among many other achievements to further the advance of women, the fact that she was the founder and organizer of the movement which has grown into the far-flung and outstanding organization of women known as the Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs. Mrs. Hooker, in referring to this fact, asked Miss Laughlin to discuss the plan of organization of the National Woman's Party.

With her customary directness, not unmixed with the dry humor with which she invariably lightens serious discussions, Miss Laughlin said that "when anyone doesn't want by-laws, I always assume that that person wants to run something. An organization has to start with a few members and, the more you grow, the more you need rules to guide you. I always wonder whether there ever was a person or group of persons of whom it could be said that wisdom died with them, and I have never found anyone, no matter what the cause or movement might be, except candidates for institutions for the feeble-minded, who did not have something to contribute.

"I OFTEN read a certain newspaper column, not because I believe any of it, but because I want to know what 'that bunch' are thinking.

"No organization in this day and age can be done in a corner—that is, not unless you are living in the White House. This nation also in repudiating a despotism must go back to government of the majority. And the only way we can hope for success in the National Woman's Party is by winning members throughout the country. We encountered the same thing in suffrage. First, all the conventions were held in Washington. Then a certain group advocated holding them in different parts of the country. The two groups could not agree and the organization split in two. It was not until 1890 that they came together in the National American Woman Suffrage Association and from that time forward carried their message to the whole country. After all, you can't get an Amendment to the Constitution unless you get it through the States. Even if it is passed by Congress, it has to be ratified by three-fourths of the States. And I can't conceive of any worse calamity than to have Congress pass it and then not to have it ratified.

"These Regional Conferences are only a beginning. They give us new ideas and at the same time help us to increase our numbers. There is no question about our having quality in our membership; but we also need quantity if we want our program to go through. It is true that many people vote who have no reason to be voting or even to be born; but so long as success depends on numbers, we have to have quantity behind legislation whether it includes mental defectives or not."

A TRIBUTE to Margaret Brent of Maryland, pioneer business woman and lawyer, who demanded a vote from the Maryland Assembly in Colonial days which was denied, although she was at the time the governing head of the Colony, was paid by Margaret Konig of Baltimore, Democratic candidate for Congress. Miss Konig said that, in spite of the achievements of this illustrious pioneer woman and despite the fact that Maryland is called the "free State," only three women have so far served in its Legislature. She asserted that the time has come for Maryland women to be recognized and that her own campaign in Congress is an earnest of her conviction in this regard. However, the fact that she is a woman makes her present struggle to realize her ambition far from being a pink tea.

"Although I have worked hard for my Party," she said, "pinch-hitting for them on numerous and difficult occasions, I know that because I am a woman I shall not have the support of the Democratic clubs. I did not have their support when I ran for the City Council, though I am frank to say that being a member of Congress interests me far more than being

a member of the City Council. My campaign is therefore being conducted mainly by calling women on the telephone and asking their support. And when women tell me they are not interested, I ask them how they can be interested in their children if they are not definitely interested in politics. The organization of women into groups like this is a most necessary thing. With the history we have behind us, we must concede that our State has not progressed as it should, because women have not been organized.

"I believe there should be more women in politics. Women have a definite sense of the beautiful which is valuable in city planning. They are interested in schools and in sanitation. There are certain measures of social legislation which women must help to achieve, among them old age pensions and unemployment insurance for skilled and unskilled labor.

"Woman must do her part, not because she is a woman, but because of her unerring instinct that what is not good for the individual is not good for the all."

The morning closed with a discussion, suggested by Mrs. Hooker and led by Della Vincenti of Baltimore, of the proposed amendments to the National constitution of the Party which appeared in last week's EQUAL RIGHTS.

Amy Kessler of Philadelphia urged widespread publicity so that members would be fully informed of the changes to be voted on when they attended the National Convention of the Party in the fall. Mrs. Robert F. Hudson, Virginia Chairman, advised using the radio. Mrs. Hooker called attention to the fact that at the last Convention the by-laws were changed to provide for annual instead of biennial conventions. Other changes were badly needed, she said, among them that the Occupational Councils, in which hundreds of women are enrolled, should be represented at annual conventions on a membership basis as are the geographical units, and not merely by their national chairmen. At the suggestion of Gail Laughlin, Mrs. Vincenti offered a motion which was adopted that a committee be appointed by Arabel Clark, Conference Chairman, to make a study of the proposed changes and come prepared to recommend those found to be advisable to the National Convention in the fall.

Sara B. Cummings, Philadelphia Chairman, declared that her Branch could "have gotten nowhere without the organization of many fine enthusiastic workers in the State of Pennsylvania," mentioning particularly Arabel Clark and Elizabeth Baker who organized the Harrisburg Branch, and adding "they can't do anything without us and we can't do anything without them." She called on Elizabeth Baker who, she said, had "started the Harrisburg Conference and put it on the map" to tell her experiences.

"I feel that, in working for the National Woman's Party," Miss Baker began, "we all need a great deal of education. We assume that people know things when as a matter of fact they don't know them. In Harrisburg, they tried to put out the married women teachers, although the Superintendent kept his married Secretary and there were married women in other positions. But it isn't only the outsiders who need to be educated. The same thing applies to some of our own members. One of them said the other day, 'I think we should have dismissed those married women.'

"In the part of town in which I live we have about 130 bona fide registered voters and at every election they vote over 200 people. The day before a recent primary election they liberated from jail a man who had served a federal term for murder, who recently tampered with a jury and to whom the judge, in sentencing him, had said that he deserved to be severely punished because he had been 'polluting the stream of justice at its source.' I feel that I want to begin right now in our own precinct to clean it up.

"If we are going to play practical politics, every woman should start in her own precinct and her own ward and start to clean things up."

Doris Stevens in Ovation at "Victory Dinner"

THE convention dinner was a notable event not only because of the galaxy of brilliant speakers and the witchery of the atmosphere created by the vista of the lighted boardwalk, the illumination on the turreted roofs resembling fairy castles of nearby hotels, and the reflected gleam which was thrown back by the sea, but also by a cordial feeling of good comradeship engendered by the presence of some of the outstanding women of Atlantic City and nearby places.

Ada Taylor, President of the Business and Professional Women of Atlantic City, brought with her a delegation of members of that organization, and Doris Bradway, Mayor of Wildwood, came down to add cordial words of welcome to those extended by the other Jerseyites. Then there was Amelia Walker, Chairman of the Maryland Branch, always in demand as a toastmistress, and Doris Stevens Chairman of the Inter American Commission of Women, whose story of the adoption of the Stevens Treaty at Montevideo seems more wonderful each time she tells it.

Miss Stevens was introduced by Mrs. Walker as the "accomplisher of great ends," but insisted that Ella Riegel of Philadelphia who "looked after our exceedingly slender purse" as treasurer of the Commission, should share her laurels, especially as Miss Riegel had performed the miracle of making $90 in foreign exchange. Reluctantly, Miss Riegel was compelled to tell of her ability as an international financier, a talent, one learned, that was acquired, first by studying to some extent the economic system of Uruguay and neighboring States with which it exchanges commodities, in the shape principally of sheep and cattle, and to some extent also by indulging the feminine proclivity known as "shopping around."

Miss Stevens' address is given in full elsewhere in this issue. At its conclusion, Mrs. Walker remarked that "whenever Doris Stevens speaks, I feel I am in the presence of real nobility." As a practical illustration of the need of equality in nationality, Mrs. Walker cited the experience of a friend who had applied for passports for her children, only to find that she had no birth-certificates for the children, the obstetricians who had delivered the babies, and who had since died, having failed to issue certificates. The mother who offered to supply the information which the certificates should have contained was told she was not qualified. "Because I was a woman," Mrs. Walker quoted her as saying, "I didn't count anymore than a guinea pig. Four men had to testify as to the birth of my children."

Mrs. Walker expressed the great gratification of the Conference members that Mayor Doris Bradway of Wildwood, N. J., had accepted the invitation to attend and to speak, and Mrs. Bradway, in turn, said she had heard so many wonderful things about Doris Stevens that she was "thrilled to pieces" to appear with her on the same platform.

"There is no question," she pursued, referring to the Montevideo victory, "that this National Woman's Party has done something. You may have heard that recently the Board of Education of Wildwood attempted to dismiss married women teachers. About that time I attended a meeting of the Philadelphia Branch of your Party at which there was so much enthusiasm that I promised I would have the resolution of the Education Board rescinded, and I did.

"In politics, it is a question of how many votes a woman can bring, not particularly what she can do. In Philadelphia, I began to realize that married women have some status, too. I had for-

gotten, you see, that I was a married woman.

"I hope you will take the message Miss Stevens preached to heart. In my own case, everybody knows the struggle I am having, but I have plenty of excess weight, and I can take it. Before I decided to run for office, a man to whom I expressed my ambition said, 'You're a fine woman and I'm very fond of you, but I'd rather see an inefficient man in that position than the best woman I know. Then and there I made up my mind to get that job.

"You have heard about the investigations that are being made of my office. I don't propose to quit if there are fifteen investigations. Nothing could make me resign that office.

"In conclusion, I should like to say to all of you—Go out and win something for some woman in your own community. If a woman is running for office, go out and help her. She needs your support. Let's do it—not for ourselves, but for others!"

SARA B. CUMMINGS, Chairman of the Philadelphia Branch, issued a rousing call for greater efforts in behalf of justice to women which will be printed in full in next week's EQUAL RIGHTS.

Helen Elizabeth Brown, lawyer and chairman of the Business and Professional Women's Council of the Maryland Branch, expressed doubt as to "whether we are quite as modern as we think we are." She blamed the Common Law for many of the laws that still oppress women. The Suffrage Amendment was passed, she said, so that women could take their places beside men in business, but they are not doing it.

"Certainly," she argued, *"if women without votes could win the Suffrage Amendment, those with votes should be able to use their power to secure the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.*

"I hope the depression will give women a psychology of their own; they have long needed it. When the industrial expansion came on, a great many women became responsible for their own economic welfare. After all, unless women recognize the inherent merits of other women, they can't have much respect for their own. When women acquire the attitude inherent in their being separate entities, they will be able to win their full freedom. We worked for the franchise from 1848 until it was won, and the franchise is the key to the whole situation. If women said they wanted the Equal Rights Amendment passed, it would be passed, and no power on earth would stop it. If we could get enough women to contribute their votes, Equal Rights would be an accomplished fact."

No National Woman's Party gathering could be complete without the wit and wisdom of Mary Winsor of Haverford, Pa. Miss Winsor entertained the Conference with an account of the amusing results of her recent tilt at arms with a Philadelphia clergyman who, Miss Winsor said, "not satisfied with the privileges of his pulpit," had had the temerity to tell Mrs. Pinchot (wife of the Governor of Pennsylvania) and Mrs. Roosevelt "to go home and be quiet," and had also expressed the opinion that the advantages of woman suffrage had been "nil." Whereupon, said Miss Winsor, she had taken her pen in hand and written to the newspapers that while the benefits of woman suffrage might have been exactly nil to the clerical objector, they were by no means of zero importance to members of the National Woman's Party.

"The next thing," Miss Winsor proceeded, "was that I received two postals. In the first, although the conferring of titles is frowned upon in this country, the name of Chief Scout for the National Woman's Party was conferred upon me, and having received this honor, gratuitously and without seeking it, I think I shall retain it. In fact, I think it might not be inappropriate to have it carved upon my tombstone.

"The sender of the card also vouchsafed the opinion that 'the trouble with you old hens is that you ought to stay home and do your knitting'—an unusual idea certainly—of a hen attending to her knitting—but neither more nor less funny than the message on the other card which was directed to 'you old hens who want to wear the pants.'

"These cards," Miss Winsor continued, "are illustrative of delusions about men and women that have held the minds of the public for many, many years. It is ludicrous and at the same time harmful that there should be this feeling that man is entitled to better wages and jobs than woman because he supports the family. Investigations show that a large number of women have people depending on them. And yet this contention which is not based on fact is being used to oust hundreds and thousands of women from their jobs. Times are terrible. The spirit of Hitlerism is sweeping the world, injuring our Jewish friends as well as women.

"ANOTHER popular delusion is that the child has only one parent. If the marriage has been sanctioned by the church and State, the parent is the father, but if the child is illegitimate, he is the child of the mother. Either way, in most of our States—not, however, in Pennsylvania which has equal guardian ship laws—the child has only one parent.

"The third delusion is that, if a sin is committed by two persons, it is always committed in the eyes of the law by the woman."

In conclusion, Miss Winsor said the hope for the realization of the aims and ideals of the Woman's Party lay in "remembering that the Declaration of Independence stated a truth that was not a truth, but had a prophetic force that would make it a truth in time to come."

GAIL LAUGHLIN, next speaker, gave unstinted praise to Doris Stevens for her superb accomplishment at Montevideo.

"When we realize the pressure against the adoption of the Equal Nationality Treaty," she said, "the thing seems nothing short of a miracle. The victory is due to the faith that moves mountains and to ability and consecration equal to that faith. The greatest force in the world is the force of a great ideal.

"The world advances very slowly, so that what happened in Montevideo was a tremendously rapid change. The law putting the stigma of inequality in nationality on women was passed in 1907. Previous to that, the decisions of the courts were conflicting. In 1911, California women were able to exercise the right of suffrage and it was argued that no law could take from a California woman her American citizenship. In one decision, also, it was held that it was impossible that a husband and wife should have different nationalities. Then there was the case of Rosika Schwimmer, sixty years old, who refused to say she was willing to bear arms and was therefore refused citizenship.

"But the winning of equality in nationality has a value in itself—the great value of the difference it has made in the status of *all* women. As matters were, we couldn't even retain our own patriotism. Now we are one step nearer our shining goal—women can now feel that they are Daughters of the Republic and not beggars at the gate; they are bona fide members of the human race, not lean-to's on the house of the community. The greatest difference that came from suffrage was the different attitude of men toward women."

Miss Laughlin declared that the Atlantic City Conference marked another step forward in the progress of women, adding that the way to keep young was to get interested in a great movement, and that the real meaning of the saying, "the good die young" was that "whom the gods love will die young, no matter how long they live."

She urged her hearers to "scrutinize things all over again, including the organization of the Party to see whether its form suits at the present time. And I don't know," she added, "whether the time has not come to scrutinize the form of our Amendment. Charles Sumner told Susan B. Anthony that it needed to be re-drawn. For propaganda purposes it served, but we should be prepared to know what it actually means."

College Students Announce Ambitious Program

IN opening the Sunday morning session of the Conference, Betty McGing, President of the National Student Council of the Party, made two announcements—one, that a course on "The History of the Woman Movement," the first to be included in any college curriculum, would be given by Dr. Mary Wilhelmina Williams of Goucher College; and second, that the Student Council was asking for volunteers to speak at colleges in the region covered by the Conference Committee, the list of colleges including Goucher, Bryn Mawr, University of Delaware, New Jersey College for Women, Barnard of New York, Western Maryland College, Hood College, and the University of Maryland. Several members of the Conference offered their services as speakers and Mrs. Hooker suggested that the Summer School at Bryn Mawr be included in the list of colleges.

"The time has come," she said, "to organize the younger groups. We should book up Miss Laughlin and Doris Stevens and others to make a definite tour of the colleges throughout the entire country, Miss McGing included. Henry George and Dr. Anna Howard Shaw made similar tours. Groups should be organized at each college under definitely drawn by-laws. We should also approach the professional schools and try to enroll all women lawyers and all women doctors. I am sure that Dr. Florence Sabin will be glad to help in any way."

Miss Konig urged that students in commercial colleges, comprising a large group, be included in the plan.

The main address of the college session was made by Josephine Bondi Lippi of Philadelphia. It will be printed in next week's EQUAL RIGHTS.

Self-Supporting Women Need Woman's Party Aid

THE business and professional women of Maryland were well represented at the Sunday afternoon session of the Conference by Mildred Kahler Geare, newspaperwoman, and Helen Elizabeth Brown, lawyer, of Baltimore, who jointly served as toastmistresses.

The first speaker, Elizabeth C. Forbes, said she had derived so much benefit from the various speeches and discussions that she preferred listening to others to speaking herself. Mrs. Forbes' ability as a lobbyist are recognized both in Maryland and Washington. It was largely due to her efforts that the Maryland Legislature, a number of years ago, passed a bill establishing equal pay for teachers, and that an eight-hour law for women was defeated at the last session of the Legislature.

Margaret Konig, the next speaker, introduced by Mrs. Geare as the "first Maryland woman to announce her candidacy for Congress," averred that if the author of the New Deal had been attending the Conference there would be "tomorrow morning a brand-new brain trust in Washington." She declared that "Gail Laughlin belongs not in the Maine Legislature but in the United States Senate," and paid another glowing tribute to Edith Houghton Hooker for her great work for the advancement of women.

Ida Kloze, former president of the Business and Professional Women's Council, emphasized the point that "politics is governed by numbers" and that, "as soon as the National Woman's Party becomes numerically strong, it won't have any difficulty in doing the things it wants to do."

This was amplified by Sophie Nordenholz, president of the Maryland Women Lawyers' Association, who argued that "our numbers must shout through widespread publicity. Many people have not heard of us and our work, and do not know what it means."

Laughter greeted her remark that "We can't just say, 'To hell with the Democrats!' and 'To hell with the Republicans!' We have to convince the political parties that what we want is right."

Mrs. Robert Fletcher Hudson, Chairman of the Virginia Branch, deplored the efforts that are being made to oust married women from their jobs. "Men are not weighed in the balance," she said, "as to whether they are married or single. It is only the married women who are harped upon, whether they need their positions or not."

Elizabeth S. Baker, President of the Quota Club of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and a member of the Legislative Committee of the State Teachers' League, said:

"I can't understand why all women's clubs do not take up this cause. Organization work is hard work, but the Conference we held in Harrisburg was a testimonial that it is worthwhile. This is my fourth conference with the National Woman's Party and I am thrilled every time I come to one. When I think of the consecration of the pioneers and the fire and enthusiasm of the young people, I know we are going forward. In the beginning it is not numbers, but people with convictions that count."

Amy Kessler of Philadelphia reiterated her previously-expressed view that more publicity was needed. Under her leadership, the Philadelphia Branch, she explained, is preparing a series of vigorous newspaper articles and radio broadcasts, and she told of a recent successful broadcast in which Mary Winsor was interviewed on the work and aims of the Woman's Party by a well-known newspaper woman. She asked that copies of EQUAL RIGHTS be sent to all women on Philadelphia papers.

Women workers in New York, owing to the iniquitous no-night-work law for women, "have been under the heel of discriminatory laws so long," asserted Maude Williams of the Typographical Union of New York, "that they don't realize that there is any chance for betterment. There is always present that sex feeling and, if anything can be done in many shops to bar women, it is done. Most printing is done at night, so that the night work law threw hundreds of women printers out of jobs, many of them experienced printers who had worked for years. They would all have steady positions if it were not for this law."

There was one ray of cheer, however, Mrs. Williams said, in the fact that the officers of the International Typographical Union have agreed to support the women printers in their efforts to have the law amended. She also rejoiced in the fact that the NRA printing code contains no discriminations against women. Mrs. Williams strongly urged that the National Woman's Party go out and organize these jobless women, declaring that they would be the "best workers the Party could have."

The speeches of Laura Anderson, Government worker, and of Eva Farrell, sales-manager, both of Philadelphia, will be printed in a forthcoming number..

The Conference closed with the adoption of resolutions presented by Frances Anné of Philadelphia, Chairman of the Resolutions Committee. They included a resolution of thanks to all who had contributed to the success of the Conference; a resolution that the name of the Conference be changed to Eastern Regional Conference; that a committee be appointed by Miss Clark, headed by Gail Laughlin, to study the national by-laws and report its conclusions to the Richmond Conference in October; and that Miss Clark appoint a Conference Finance Committee.

Treaty Method Best for Wiping Out Inferiority Stigma

Speech of Doris Stevens, Chairman of the Inter American Commission of Women, at the "Victory Dinner" in Her Honor Last Saturday in Atlantic City

I AM happy to come to your dinner tonight to join with you in celebrating women's victory at Montevideo in which many of you took such an important part. Ella Riegel of Pennsylvania, whom I see here tonight, went to Montevideo in her distinguished person. Among her most valuable international labors which stretch over a long period was her tender care at the Conference of our exceedingly slender purse. We pause to rejoice over the two first authentic acts of international Feminism. They should bolster us up and make us feel fit to conquer new fields.

Of what does this victory consist? How ample is the content of our victory? We did not win equality. Some equality is not equality; it remains but a measure of equality until we shall have won equality in all departments of life.

Let us consider first the Nationality Treaty adopted at Montevideo. By this treaty most of the States of this hemisphere have said that the conduct of women marrying outside the tribe, and bearing their children outside the homeland, is no longer to be considered any more eccentric than it is for men to do likewise. Women through their solidarity have smashed the concept that it was all right for the State to consider men's conduct natural, desirable and approved when they married and begot children outside the tribe and reprehensible for women to do so. Furthermore, the assumption that woman lives only in relation to her man rather than as an entity in herself has received another body blow.

At Montevideo it was primarily *the method used* which brightened not only our hearts, but the hearts of many enlightened jurists as well. We took a new, clean, untraveled road. That new road was the only aspect of our engagement at the Seventh Conference, which was under fire. The only objection offered—and that came mainly from our own delegation—was the familiar one, that this was not the way to get equality. The Inter American Commission of Women, along with you and many other groups, proved that it was not only an excellent way and one approved by vast numbers of women, but a method acceptable to nineteen nations. That is a final answer and disposes of the only objection offered. The treaty method of obtaining equality was established. That gain cannot be overestimated.

ALONG with the Nationality Treaty, the Inter American Commission of Women recommended the adoption of the complete Equal Rights Treaty. We got instead a pious wish that all the American Republics get on with equality within their separate frontiers — in other words, the Conference recommended, more or less, just what is going on now. We were dissatisfied with this. Some of the delegates, also dissatisfied, considered drawing up a minority report. But a minority report has always seemed to me a useless luxury. We persuaded them to agree to sign the Equal Rights Treaty. This, we were told, put women in the ranks of big-time conference negotiators, for it is often true that the most important acts of international conferences are those treaties entered into on the margin of a conference.

AND so while delegates prepared and read their ponderous documents on why it was all right to have *some* equality by treaty and *not all right* to have *equality* by treaty; while they defended the ancient doctrine of the self-sufficiency of States; while they grew sonorous over the sacred, inviolate sovereignity of States—which means the right to do as you please, no matter who else is harmed by it—we stole about our work, often literally in the dead of night, making sure of these four signatures and the consummation of the Treaty. These negotiations, paralleling those for the Nationality Treaty, which were more showy and about which all of you have heard, began the first week at the Conference when the sub-committee voted against full equality by treaty, and they lasted until December 26.

This involved persuading the representatives of Uruguay, Paraguay, Ecuador and Cuba that a minority report was no good except to spread ink on paper in four languages; that two were enough to make a treaty, but that four was a nobler number; expediting cables to home offices to obtain the necessary special powers to sign the Treaty; in one instance, actually carrying the cable to the cable office at three in the morning of the day of signing because one plenipotentiary had forgotten to cable his home office for powers on this (the cable reply from his President was back by ten the same morning); disturbing delegates in their slumbers; getting permission from the Secretariat of the Conference to permit the signing of ours to take place on the same day that the All-Conference acts were signed, to be sure none escaped, as signing all alone in solitary dignity the following day might have made possible; rescuing the text of our treaty from the discard two hours before the signing took place. A conference underling, in this case, seeing the official calligrapher about to start work inscribing the text of a strange treaty in final form, remonstrated with him that it was not a conference treaty and therefore he must not perform his penned miracles for us. This discovered, there followed stern words to the underling and more important to his chief; a mad hunt for a non-conference calligrapher; failure to find one; orders from the General Secretary to the underling; descent to the cellar to tell the official calligrapher that he could go ahead; delivery of a very wet document into my hands while the last speech was drawing to a close, before the ceremony was to begin; finding typographical errors in the text; another descent to the cellar for corrections; complete disappearance of the calligrapher, who then began to have ideas about not being hurried in his art; hunt and capture of the calligrapher; deputizing different women to see that the right delegates got attached to the right treaty; the treaty finally spread out on the table, the calligrapher standing by, still making a capital letter for a small letter "s" in States; wary approach of the signatories; attempt by some who did not mean to sign to do so in the confusion and haste to get out of the city; buying and having ready a bronze pen with which to sign the treaty in order to preserve it as a symbol of this historic moment—all uncomprehended by the hurried delegates; a dash to the boat to get Cuba to sign the English text, as well as the Spanish, and first getting the Secretary-General's permission to take the treaty to catch Cuba by the coat tails; seeing that the seals of each plenipotentiary were attached to the treaty; searching for someone who could photostat the treaty; and finally saying goodbye to the treaty laid in its strong box in the Foreign Office of Uruguay with a handshake for the Foreign Minister, the same who had presided over the Conference, and a photograph to record this historic moment in the beautiful Cabildo in Montevideo. That is all there was to do.

THE lightning speed with which all this had to be done still staggers us. It may you, too, when you remember that, as I have said, most of our time was spent on the Nationality Treaty; fighting down some attempts to end the life of the Commission; speaking at countless meetings, preparing memoranda; drafting resolutions; gettings out material to the press; holding a meeting of the Commission and many informal conferences with colleagues; going to officials' receptions, and what not.

Let me remind you that this treaty was drafted by a woman, Alice Paul; first presented to the Havana Confer-

ence by women in 1928; women were arrested in Rambouillet, France, the same year for attempting to lay it before plenipotentiaries there assembled; it has been fought for by women and in six years it has obtained the signatures of four republics.

What does signatures by four countries mean? It means that everything that can be done about legal equality will be done in these four countries when their governments have ratified the signing at Montevideo. Women had a deep and militant desire to get their rights and were willing to fight for them. They knew the right place to go when they went to the Seventh Conference and they used excellent strategy. The same amount of time and money, you understand, could have been spent on winning municipal suffrage in La Paz, let us say. But we chose the better method. If we had had sufficient solidarity among women here and in the other Americas, we could have induced all the Republics of this hemisphere to accept the Equal Rights Treaty and finished off this task. It is significant that we got as far as we did with so few people in the center of action and so little money.

Why do I say we chose a good method? The treaty method is not only the most effective and the easiest, but it is the only way to get something infinitely more difficult than legal equality—I mean a change in the folk-ways.

The fortunes of women in one nation are bound up with the fortunes of women in other nations. As long as women are considered inferior in one place, this social malady will contaminate other areas. Treaty action makes nations march abreast. It wipes out with a broader stroke the folk stigma on femaleness. The women of these countries will have legal equality within their borders. But they will still have to face the unchallenged folk belief throughout most of the world that they are inferior, unless the women of the rest of the hemisphere get it too.

Women of one country cannot separate themselves from their sex all over the world. I have some Mexican friends who despise hot red peppers. Yet everywhere they go, people take pains to serve peppers because everybody thinks all Mexicans eat peppers. The folk belief is that all women should be treated both better or worse than men, and, just as wherever my Mexican friends went, they got peppers which they didn't want, so the women of this hemisphere, until all are free as these Mexicans are free of peppers, will have to face this widespread superstition about women, just as the Mexicans have to face the false belief about peppers. It is a fact, of course, that most Mexicans *do* eat peppers, and that most women *are* in an unfavored position. Non-pepper-consuming Mexicans can't prevent peppers being thrust at them any more than free women can help having this world-wide belief in their peculiarness thrust at them. If the women alone of these four countries get equality, their equality will be considered exceptional. If the women of the whole hemisphere get their freedom through treaty action, equality for women quickly becomes the usual rule and not the exception, and the age-old scare-crow of the necessity to treat women unequally will fall on its empty face in the last apple orchard in Maine.

Can we as women ask less than the governments of these four nations gave? Need we hesitate and take feeble steps? No. We can, with new devotion and fresh industry, pledge to take a swifter, more invigorating pace. It is entirely up to us. We can end the brutal degradation of women taking new form throughout the world. We can refuse to accept a jungle world in which men and women live in stupid, destructive competition and build a lively society in which men and women coöperate.

You are picked women. So you know what has to be done—in spite of Montevideo. You know about the economic and spiritual frustrations women suffer today. Healthy women, in common with healthy men, desire security, stability, beauty, dignity in their lives. These cannot be obtained unless their human needs for work and play are satisfied. You know that neither one of these needs can be violated without destroying the other. If their work-life suffers, their emotional life does too. What a poignant tragedy it is that men learn so slowly that unless women are allowed to choose their own work, they become poor things and wretched mates. Can not men learn that only when women have a chance to be happy will men have a chance to be?

Either we are going down together in this swampy jungle of sex antagonism, or, through women's freedom, we shall free both sexes. With both free, we may dare to contemplate building together a civilized community.

Press Comment

Seven States Sign Discriminatory Pact

New York Herald Tribune, May 30, 1934.

CONCORD, N. H., May 29—Seven Northeastern States, whose boundaries shelter a quarter of the nation's population, today signed the first interstate compact in the history of the country for protection of women and minors in industry.

In a solemn ceremony in the council chamber of the State House delegates from five New England States, Pennsylvania and New York affixed their signatures to the eight-page document. Then they heard Governor John G. Winant of this State convey the congratulations of President Roosevelt.

"You may recall," wrote the President, "that in January of 1931, when I was Governor of New York, I called the first conference of officials of the Northeastern States to consider the possibility of proceeding by joint State action to maintain and to improve industrial and labor standards.

"Because this meeting on May 29, at least in part, is an outgrowth of our earlier discussions in Albany, I naturally have a deep personal satisfaction in it. But my interest goes much further, for the State action now proposed is complementary to the national action already taken in Washington to give American citizens a more ample and more secure life."

The compact, which must be ratified by the Legislatures of the several States, contemplates minimum standards of wages for women and minors and contains a provision that "no employer shall pay a woman or minor an unfair or oppressive wage."

State boards are to be set up with authority to investigate pay rolls and require compliance.

The compact has been under negotiation for several years. Governor Winant, who left a sick bed to preside over the historic gathering, has been one of the leading proponents of the agreement under which it is hoped to deal the sweatshop a death blow in the industrial Northeast.

Connecticut, through its Commissioner of Labor, Joseph M. Tone, was the first State to sign the document. The others followed in alphabetical order.

Vermont, originally reported in an official statement from the Governor's office to have been a party to the signed agreement, did not sign, but those present said they expected it would do so soon.

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Equal Rights by National Amendment	5c
Denial of Justice to Women.....	10c
The Case for Women Jurors.....	25c
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